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MINISTRY OF FINANCE

الهيئة الاتحادية للضرائب
FEDERAL TAX AUTHORITY



صندوق النقد العربي
ARAB MONETARY FUND



Arab Regional Tax Forum:

Balancing Tax Policy, Administration and Competitiveness

31 March – 1 April 2019
Dubai, Grand Hyatt Hotel,
United Arab Emirates
Agenda

Day 1	
7:30-9:00 AM	Registration
9:00-9:15 AM	Opening Ceremony <u>Welcoming Note</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• His Excellency Obaid Humaid Al Tayer, Minister of State for Financial Affairs, Ministry of Finance, United Arab Emirates• His Excellency Dr. Abdulrahman A. Al. Hamidy, Director General, Arab Monetary Fund
9:15-9:45 AM	<u>Keynote Addresses:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sir Mark Moody-Stuart, Honorary Co-Chairman, International Tax and Investment Center (ITIC); Chairman, Hermes Equity Ownership Services; Director, Saudi Aramco; Former CEO, Shell• HE Khalid Al Bustani, Director General, Federal Tax Authority, UAE

9:45-11:00 AM	<p>Tax Policy in Arab countries: Meeting the Challenges of the Future</p> <p>This session will present the current trends in taxation and revenue in AMF member countries, with a view of considering fiscal responses to current economic developments in the region. A review of global trends and a regional policy overview, in the context of macroeconomic issues in Arab countries, will set the policy context, segmented by needs of Arab countries with different levels of economic development.</p>
11:00-11:15 AM	<p>Tea/Coffee Break</p>
11:15-12:30 PM	<p>Tax Base Protection in the Arab Region: New Perspectives and Implications</p> <p>This presentation will be based on a paper commissioned by the United Nations to consider strategies for tax base protection in the Arab region, especially in the context of enforcement difficulties and international capital mobility. It explores various channels through which tax and non-tax measures can mitigate the problems arising from tax evasion and examines routes for effective use of tax incentives in countries with weak investment climates, both resource-rich (rent-potential) and non-resource countries.</p>
12:30-1:30 PM	<p>Lunch</p>
1:30-2:30 PM	<p>Implementing Global Tax Arrangements in Arab Countries</p> <p>This session examines the administrative and legislative issues in actual implementation of worldwide tax rules such as the BEPS Action Plan in AMF member countries. Several Arab countries have signed up for the minimum standards and for implementation of the multilateral instrument (MLI). Significant work is now necessary for a treaty by treaty review of application of the MLI, especially those with a large number of DTAs. A review of the MAP provision and of possible adoption of arbitration are also issues that have to be considered.</p>

2:30-3:30PM	<p>Harmful Tax Competition and Undertaking the Peer Review Process</p> <p>This session considers the practical issues of dealing with the harmful tax competition issues covered by BEPS Action 5 and its possible impact on the thriving IFC regimes in Arab countries. The session will cover the process of the peer reviews undertaken, and the impacts of such reviews.</p>
3:30-3:45 PM	<p>Coffee Break</p>
3:45-5:00 PM	<p>Tax Administration Automation in the Arab Region – Implementing the Next Wave</p> <p>Many tax administrations in the region have made significant investments in automation, and have implemented initiatives like e-filing, automated processing, and use of technology in taxpayer services. This session will showcase opportunities to leverage new technologies and solutions in the context of the globalized economy, the growing role of social media and the use of technology in delivering citizen services.</p>

Day 2	
8:00-9:00 AM	Registration and Coffee/Tea
9:00-10:30 AM	<p>Application and Enforcement of VAT and GST in the Arab Region</p> <p>This session will consider current and possible developments in the GCC VAT in the light of global developments in VAT. It will also address the typical challenges in enforcement of VAT and in regional and sub-regional coordination of VAT regimes, especially in the light of increase in cross border provision of goods and services. It will provide practical approaches in administrative practices and regulatory changes that can be adopted by countries in the region as indirect taxes such as a VAT increase in importance.</p>
10:30-10:45 AM	Coffee Break
10:45-11:45 AM	<p>Innovations in Tax Administration: Showcasing the UAE VAT Administration Solution (subject to UAE FTA agreement)</p> <p>This session will present the successful implementation of the VAT administration system in the UAE.</p>
11:45-1:00 PM	<p>Breakout Session 1: Application and Enforcement of Indirect Taxation Regimes in Arab countries</p> <p>This session will consider current and possible developments on indirect taxation system rather than VAT in the Arab region in the light of global developments. The session will cover the application and administration of other indirect taxes, such as excises, carbon taxes and taxes on telecommunications.</p>

11:45-1:00 PM	<p>Breakout Session 2: International Taxation of Service Companies</p> <p>This session will cover the practical tax issues in dealing with services provided by international companies in the Arab region. The scope will cover PE issues, withholding taxes and management of characterization issues for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oil and gas companies providing services to National oil companies • Oilfield service companies • Construction, design and project services companies • Hotel and hospitality service companies
1:00-2:30 PM	<p>Lunch</p>
2:30-3:45 PM	<p>Application of a Transfer Pricing Regime in Arab Countries</p> <p>This session will examine the present state and application of transfer pricing rules in the region. It will examine mechanisms by the tax authorities to assess TP risk and opportunities to develop certainty, with the help of a case study using actual comparable data sets. It will also consider practical and balanced approaches to the implementation of Country-by-Country (CbC) reporting under BEPS Action 13, and how countries can implement such mechanisms.</p>
3:45-4:00 PM	<p>Coffee Break</p>
4:00-5:30 PM	<p>Performance Improvement for Tax Administrations</p> <p>This session will focus on capacity development and design issues for tax administration appropriate to the region. It will examine mechanisms by the tax authorities to assess compliance risk in view of the evolution of tax regimes and developments in the digital economy. Panel members will offer insights on other forums where peer experiences are available and methods to share best practices.</p>
5:30-6:00 PM	<p>Formal Closing Session</p>